

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING  
MARCELLA ROSE RYAN LEBEAU

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Marcella Rose Ryan LeBeau, Wigmunke Wašté Wíŋ (Pretty Rainbow Woman), of the Cheyenne River Oǎhenuŋpa (Two Kettle) Lakota Nation. Marcella LeBeau, a decorated veteran of the Second World War and a constant advocate for Indian country, passed away on November 22, 2021 at the age of 102.

Mrs. LeBeau was born in 1919, in Promise, South Dakota, and was a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. After the death of her mother and grandmother, LeBeau attended an Indian boarding school where she faced much discrimination and was barred from speaking the Lakota language.

When LeBeau was 23 she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps and served in England, France, and Belgium during the Second World War. As a nurse with the 76th General Hospital Unit, she treated frontline soldiers during the Invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. According to Mrs. LeBeau, "it was the greatest honor of my life to serve."

After the war, LeBeau continued to serve her community as an R.N. for 31 years until she retired as the director of nursing for the Indian Health Service on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. Marcella also served on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Council from 1991 to 1995 where she succeeded in leading a campaign to ban smoking in tribal buildings.

Mrs. LeBeau remained active in organizations and advocacy for Native Americans' rights and health and was a co-founding member of the North American Indian Women's Association.

Mrs. LeBeau married Gilbert LeBeau in 1947 and together they had eight children, 29 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

LeBeau has been recognized and honored in many ways throughout her life. In 2004, LeBeau was awarded the French Legion of Honor for her service in World War II, which is the highest honor given by the French government. She was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2006 and awarded the Women in History Award from the Spirit of the Prairie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2016. LeBeau also received an honorary doctorate degree in Public Service from South Dakota State University in 2018. In 2020, the National Congress of the American Indian recognized her with a leadership award, and USA Today named her as one of the most influential women of the century. On November 6, 2021, she was inducted into the National Native American Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, Marcella LeBeau dedicated her life to the service of her family, her tribe, and her nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring her contributions to our nation and the people of South Dakota. I extend my deepest condolences to the LeBeau family, Marcella will be deeply missed.

HONORING TERRELL CHANDLER

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our essential partners in supporting our Afghan allies as they await vetting and processing in Albania, Ms. Terrell Chandler.

Ms. Chandler is the Director of Field Operations for Spirit of America, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support our diplomats and our men and women in uniform abroad. Through 1,442 projects in 91 countries, Spirit of America delivers on the promise of a free and better life for countless individuals who live where Americans are deployed.

Before joining Spirit of America, Ms. Chandler spent over a decade as a Navy reservist supporting Marines, Green Berets, and other Navy units. In 2014, she served a combat tour in Afghanistan where she supported Navy SEALs and Army Special Forces as a member of a Cultural Support Team. While deployed, she developed a first-of-its-kind curriculum and training for a military exchange between U.S. and female partner forces in Southwest Asia, all while working to deliver humanitarian aid that supported the local population. This mission brought her in contact with Spirit of America and after exiting the service, she joined the ranks of other veterans who work at the non-profit.

In her role, she's been instrumental in sourcing donations for more than 100 Afghans who were evacuated to Albania. Their harrowing journey out of danger may be over, but they still need support while they are vetted to come to the United States—a process that could take years. Ms. Chandler knows how to bring resources and efficiency to a mission and we couldn't ask for a better partner as we coordinate the short, medium and long-term plan for our allies.

Ms. Chandler lives and breathes Mark Twain's words, "broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things can't be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's life." Wherever her service has taken her, she has taken the time to give back.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Terrell Chandler for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her commitment to providing for them while they await processing and resettlement, and for her resourcefulness and grit to solve any challenge, come what may, I submit these words so they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
CHARLENE LEONARD

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Charlene Mat-

thews Leonard, who passed away on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, after a brief illness. She was born on March 3, 1933, in Mexia, Texas, to parents Z.S. and Jewel Matthews.

Charlene and her family moved to Beaumont, Texas, in the early 1940s, where she graduated from Beaumont High School in 1951. During her formative years, Charlene encountered and befriended Mrs. Eloise Milam, founder of the Melody Maids. This singing group of young women performed with the goal of expressing their gratitude to the men and women serving in uniform during WWII. Without hesitation, Charlene quickly joined the group. Traveling for 30 years as "Ambassadors of Goodwill," the Melody Maids brought joy to American military bases around the world.

Charlene met the love of her life, William S. "Bud" Leonard, while attending Lamar College, which is now known as Lamar University. They shared a wonderful marriage for nearly 67 years until Bud's death in 2020. During their marriage, the couple was blessed with two children. Their eldest daughter, Joni Marie, was born on March 14, 1956, in San Diego, California, while Bud was stationed there in the Navy. Joni was born with severe mental and physical disabilities, but that did not prevent her from living a full life at home with her parents for the last 65 years. Their son Will, equally the apple of the couple's eyes, was born in Beaumont two years later in 1958.

With a song always in her heart, Charlene could be heard faithfully sharing her love of music with the church choir at Calder Baptist Church, the Interfaith Choral Society, Beaumont Junior League Follies, and Lullaby of Broadway which supported the music program at Lamar University. She routinely attended her alma mater's functions, cheering on the Cardinals at athletic events, while her husband Bud served as Vice Chancellor for Development. Those attending productions at the Julie Rogers Theatre in Beaumont regularly found Charlene in the Melody Maids' Museum sharing the countless mementos and scrapbooks from their decades of travel that are housed there.

Charlene was strong in her faith and her love for her husband Bud, her son Will and his wife, Michelle, of Beaumont, and her twin granddaughters, Anne Kellam Leonard of Los Angeles, California, and Claire Matthews Leonard of Birmingham, Alabama. Similarly, one cannot say enough about Charlene's devotion and selfless adoration for her special daughter, Joni. She never relented in her resolve to personally care for Joni as long as she could and never complained or regretted one moment of that decision.

Madam Speaker, until he passed away in 2020, Bud and Charlene Leonard were an inseparable pair, a Beaumont institution that defined community service and a zest for life. Charlene genuinely loved and cared for people and valued making new friends to add to the many cherished old friends she was dedicated to her whole life. I am privileged to have known her.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for two federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states, and D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program. Currently, each state is authorized to receive \$1.75 million annually and each of D.C. and the territories are authorized to receive \$500,000 annually.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users and the extension of transit service to new communities. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

The House-passed surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these two programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide funding for effective, efficient and sustainable transportation options for D.C. in same manner as states.

# CONGRATULATING SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 1A CHAMPIONSHIP

## HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Seton Catholic High School girls cross country team for winning the Washington state 1A championship. While the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to the team's 2020 and 2021 season, the team retained its competitive edge through the challenges they faced. Winning the first state championship in school history is evidence that their perseverance has paid off!

Each member of the team contributed to their team's success at the state tournament. Alexis Leone, Lara Carrion, Avery Garrison,

Sara Cordova, Virginia Carrion, and Addison Miller can all be proud of this tremendous accomplishment and cherish the memories they have made for the rest of their lives. Go Cougars.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE MANUEL CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" WIDNER

## HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Detective Manuel Christopher "Chris" Widner who passed away on August 22nd of 2021. Chris passed due to COVID-19 complications at the young age of 47. He leaves behind, in the safe keeping of God, his beautiful wife, son, and two step-daughters.

Det. Widner lived a life dedicated to the service of his family and his community. After high school, Chris started his career as a servant to the people at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Holding on to his dream to be a police officer, after 15 years with TDCJ Chris found an opportunity to serve as a local police officer. For his last 11 years, Chris served as a sworn officer of the peace for the people of Paris, Texas. Not since 1985 has the Paris Police Department had an officer fall in the line of duty, he will be greatly missed. Chris loved the Lord and knew God as a friend in this life. I am sure, through faith, that Det. Widner has heard the words "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Det. Widner's devotion to God, Country, family, and his community. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the family and friends of Det. Widner.

# HONORING AMBASSADOR YURI KIM

## HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated career diplomat who has devoted her life to public service, Ambassador Yuri Kim.

I first met Ambassador Kim years ago when we worked together on Iraq policy. Like so many others around the world who have worked alongside her, my initial thought was one of gratitude for her contributions to our team. Ambassador Kim is a thoughtful, compassionate, and committed diplomat who can masterfully leverage her deep knowledge and her magnetic charisma to the task at hand. It's no surprise that Ambassador Kim was confirmed to her position by voice vote in the U.S. Senate—she's one of the best that our country has to offer and I'm proud to call her a friend.

In August, when dire circumstances required us to scramble and reach out to potential countries that could host our group of Afghan evacuees, Ambassador Kim jumped into the breach. Our team called the embassy in

Tirana and she personally returned our call—setting in motion a chain of events that led to more than 100 lives being saved. That we were able to cross paths in the way that we did is a testament to the power of relationships and how they can change the course of history.

All leadership starts at the top, and our embassy staff in Tirana is a powerful example of putting country over self in order to complete a mission. They are truly learning from the best, in the same way that Ambassador Kim learned from the best as a special assistant to the late Colin Powell. There are no words to express the relief and the joy that I felt after that initial call with Ambassador Kim. I—and my entire team—are forever in her debt.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ambassador Yuri Kim for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her efforts to marshal the resources and personnel of our Embassy in Tirana and for her quick and efficient actions that undoubtedly saved lives in their hour of greatest need, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

# RECOGNIZING TRI-VALLEY HAVEN VOLUNTEERS

## HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Claire Nelson and Emily Stahl, two remarkable volunteers of Tri-Valley Haven, a domestic violence shelter that creates homes safe from abuse and contributes to a more peaceful community one family at a time.

Claire Nelson, one of the founders of Tri-Valley Haven, led an amazing group of formidable women. Claire was invested in working to help women and children after her years of professional experience in the day care field. She even went as far as to take survivors into her own home until Tri-Valley Haven was able to purchase a six-bedroom shelter. Claire took pride in building Tri-Valley Haven up from behind the scenes and served on the organization's board of directors, as their treasurer, and as president.

Emily Stahl was the shelter's children's counselor who approached each child as a unique young person with dreams and ideas of their own. She worked with parents, schools, civic groups and community partners to advocate for the kids at Shiloh Shelter. Her understanding of the work was incredibly broad and infused with kindness, genius, and good humor.

Tri-Valley Haven, like many organizations in recent years, experienced ups and downs with funding and staffing; through it all, Claire and Emily continued to ensure a safe place for survivors and their families. They're part of the reason I'm honored to represent California's 15th Congressional District.

I thank Claire and Emily for their vision and dedication to providing domestic survivors safe harbor when they need it most.